



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Forest Service Reminds Public to Practice Fire Safety With No Fire Works on National Forests

Montgomery, AL (July 1, 2008) – Many outdoor enthusiasts will celebrate the July 4th holiday weekend in one of Alabama's four national forests. Because of the dry conditions, Forest Service officials are reminding visitors to obey public restrictions by not using fire works on the Bankhead, Talladega, Conecuh and Tuskegee National Forests. During the holiday weekend, Forest Service law enforcement officers will be patrolling the four national forests to check for illegal use and possession of fireworks. Law breakers can be subject to a citation and a fine with the maximum penalty of \$5,000 or up to 6 months in jail.

During the holidays, there is a significant increase in the number of visitors enjoying national forest campgrounds, day-use areas, and trails. "We are very concerned about the illegal use of fireworks during the holidays," said Miera Crawford Nagy, forest supervisor for the National Forests in Alabama. "There is a lot of recreation activity and we are stressing fire prevention to ensure our visitors have a safe and pleasant outdoor experience."

Visitors can prevent wildfires by controlling campfires and making sure they are completely out, crushing cigarettes in ashtrays, always checking for fire restrictions, and obeying the law by not shooting fireworks in any national forest.

"We would like everyone to have fun in Alabama's national forests, but without the use of fireworks" said Nagy. Visitors are encouraged to check with local communities for fireworks displays. "Protecting homes and natural resources from destructive wildfires is a responsibility that everyone should take very seriously," said Nagy.